

Agriculture, the Economy, and the Future of Fresh Produce

Vista 4/5 Room



ILLINOIS COMMISSION
TO END HUNGER

Terri Nally
Director,
Feeding Illinois



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Karen Lehman

Director,

Fresh Taste



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Fresh Taste is an initiative by twelve Chicago-region foundations working together to relocalize the Chicago foodshed and improve equity of access to food that is healthy, green, fair and affordable.

www.freshtaste.org



Our current members include

The Chicago Community Trust
Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
J.R. Albert Foundation
Kinship Foundation
Leo S. Guthman Family Fund
Liberty Prairie Foundation
The Lumpkin Family Foundation
The Lutsey Family Foundation
Stuart Family Foundation
Walter S. Mander Foundation

With additional support from

City of Chicago Department of Planning and
Development

Nicole Bridges
Executive Director,
Prosperity Gardens



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Our Mission

Through neighborhood farming, Prosperity Gardens is dedicated to cultivating healthy communities through education, employment, and collaborative opportunities.

P.G. is located at 302 N. First St, where we grow 40 different vegetables in 32 raised beds.





Our Staff

Nicole Bridges, Executive Director



Josephine Tritsch, Program Coordinator





P.G. Board of Directors



David Freeman, along with Sandy Mason, was the catalyst for the start of the Prosperity Garden on North First Street. They initially chose the location for the original fourteen-raised bed garden. He is a Master Gardener, a law student, and an individual who is enthusiastic about the lessons that can be learned by youth in the garden. When Prosperity Gardens needed to form a legal entity to move forward, David agreed to serve on the organizing board of directors.



Napoleon Knight, M.D., M.B.A., is the Medical Director of Hospital Medicine, Regional Emergency Medicine and Hospitalist Services for Carle Hospital and Carle Physician Group. In addition, Dr. Knight is a Clinical Professor of Surgery at the University of Illinois College of Medicine and is a Board Certified Emergency Physician and a Certified Physician Executive. He is particularly passionate about the aspect of Prosperity Gardens mission focused on combatting obesity.



Sandra Mason is a University of Illinois Extension Program Educator in Horticulture. She is a double Illini, with a B.S. in horticulture and a M.S. in agricultural education. She trains and assists with coordinating the Master Gardener program. Sandy appears regularly on the Illinois Gardener program and hosts the "In the Garden" segment on WCIA TV. Along with David Freeman, Sandy was one of the two people who were the catalyst for the effort to start a youth focused garden on North First Street.



Christine Moore, community member and vice president of the Prosperity Gardens board, is an avid gardener. Concerned about the consequences of poor nutrition, she is committed to teaching others how to grow and prepare foods that promote vibrant health. Moore is a hands-on volunteer who assists at Prosperity Gardens' events and believes Prosperity Gardens has the power to make a valuable impact on the local community.



Rebecca Motley joined the work of Prosperity Gardens because of her interest in youth development, specifically issues of youth nutrition and workforce readiness. She works as the Vice President for Administration & Special Projects at One Main Development, LLC, a property development and management company located in downtown Champaign and holds a B.S. in economics and an M.B.A. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Mary Ellen Wuellner has worked for more than 25 years as a grant writer and program manager in the areas of natural resources and affordable housing, currently as Deputy Executive Director of the Champaign County Forest Preserve District. An avid gardener, she joined the Prosperity Gardens board in 2012 because she believes in the organization's goal to teach about the benefits of growing and eating healthy food while providing opportunities for job training and neighborhood improvement.



Champaign/Urbana: Community Need Local Food Insecurity and Obesity

- 17.2% of residents are Food Insecure in Champaign County
- This is the equivalent to 34,790 people who do not have adequate food and nutrition. many who are children.

As we know, the obesity rate in our nation, our counties, and our neighborhoods is steadily growing. Through education, employment and collaboration, we are trying to turn the tide on both fronts.



Education

- The READY Program
 - Health & Wellness
 - Workforce Development
- Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club
 - Garden Club





Seasonal Youth Employment Program

- READY Program students
 - Each summer we provide part-time positions on our urban farms. Since 2012, P.G. has employed 14 students.



Our Youth Corps





VOLUNTEERS

Community support is what keeps us growing!
Vounteers put in hundredes of hours each year at Prosperity Gardens!



Who volunteers at P.G.?
University of Illinois students, Master Gardeners, church groups, and community members of all ages!





P.G. Local Markets

- Farm Stands
 - Tuesdays 4-7 @ Downtown Champaign
 - Wednesday 1-5 @ Frances Nelson &
 - Thursday 3-6 @ 302 N. First St.



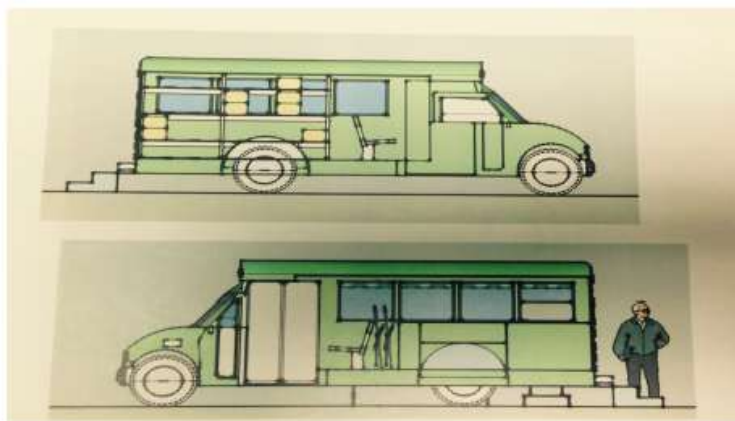
PROSPERITY  GARDENS

FARM STAND

- P.G strives to provide organic, local produce to people in the Champaign/Urbana community. We also strive to ensure that the produce we sell is accessible and affordable for all people.



Prosperity Gardens Mobile Market



P.G.'s Pay-What-you-Can Mobile Market provides FRESH PRODUCE from our urban farms weekly to patients at Frances Nelson Health Center.



Community Partners

- Frances Nelson
- City of Champaign
- Sola Gratia Farm
- The READY Program
- Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club
- University Of Illinois
- University of Illinois Extension
 - Master Gardeners





Bearsdley Park Expansion Project

2015-2016



Prosperity Gardens

Since 2010 Prosperity Gardens has built partnerships to improve access to affordable, locally produced fruits and vegetables. Prosperity Gardens' engagement with the urban communities of north Champaign include educational and employment programs for teenagers, health and wellness programs focused around healthy eating, and a farm-stand from which they sell the produce from their urban vegetable gardens.

In 2015 the City of Champaign pledged to support the vision of Prosperity Gardens by providing them access to one acre of derelict land close to the center of downtown Champaign. Sixteen architecture students have spent the first part of the spring semester developing a master plan for the site that will extend the impact Prosperity Gardens can have on the Champaign community.

Future Plans

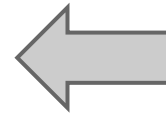
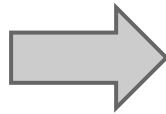
Corey Chatman
Program Manager,
Experimental Station



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Farmers Markets & Food Banks

Ways to connect them



Mission - Farmers Markets

- Support the community
 - Food access,
 - New Town Square
- Support local farmers
- Educational programing
 - Chef Demos, food prep
- Fight hunger
 - SNAP and Incentives

Mission - Food Banks

- Fight Hunger
 - Distribution networks (Food banks, soup kitchens)
 - Donations (funding, food drives)
- Support the community
 - Food access
- Educate the public about hunger

How they intersect

- Vulnerable communities
 - Unemployed
 - Families on fixed income
 - Working poor

In many cases participating in SNAP and WIC.

- Volunteerism
- Education

How to help Farmers Markets

- Promote food access programming
 - SNAP
 - WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers
 - Incentives
- Volunteer

How to help Food Banks

- Food Drives
- Gleaning Programs
- Volunteer



Working together

- Managers should stay connected
- Work on programs that help each other
- Example - City Buck Program



Time for Q&A!



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